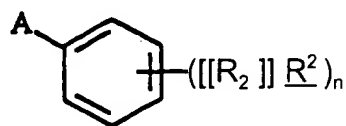


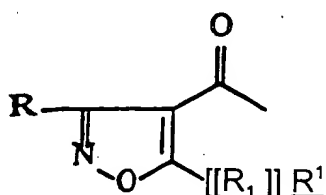
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the formula (I) at page 6, lines 10-11, with the following rewritten formula:

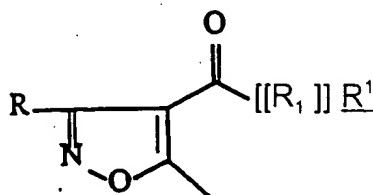


(I)

Please replace the formulas (A-1) and (A-2) at page 6, lines 14-16, with the following rewritten formulas:



(A-1)



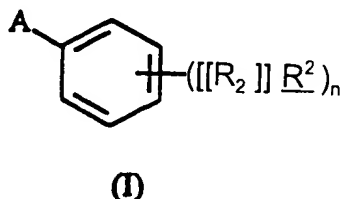
(A-2)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

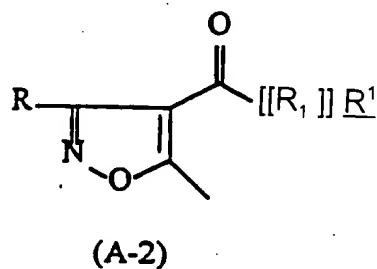
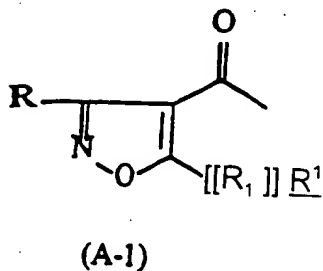
Claims 1-26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide encapsulated within a solid film to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium, wherein said solid film comprises an inert material that has no substantial herbicidal activity, further ~~The method according to claim 25,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide comprises an isoxazole compound of the general formula I



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1) or (A-2):



wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 , one or more halogen atoms or a group $-CO_2R^3$; or a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-OR^5$; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, $-COR^5$, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, $-OR^5$, $-OSO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-CONR^3R^4$, $-CSNR^3R^4$, $-(CR^9R^{10})_l-S(O)_qR^7$ and $-SF_3$; or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=NO-R^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain

alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$, and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5 ;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

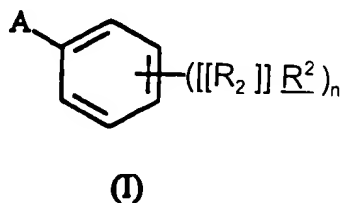
k, p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

m represents one, two or three; and

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

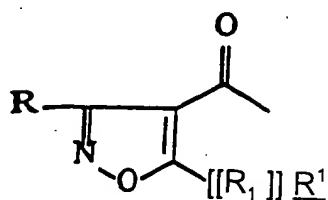
or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of general formula I :

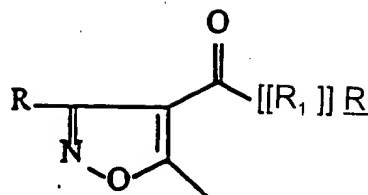


wherein:

A represents a group (A-1) or (A-2):



(A-1)



(A-2)

wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 , one or more halogen atoms or a group $-CO_2R^3$; or a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-OR^5$; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, $-COR^5$, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, $-OR^5$, $-OSO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-CONR^3R^4$, $-CSNR^3R^4$, $-(CR^9R^{10})_i-S(O)_qR^7$ and $-SF_3$; or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more

groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=NO-R^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$, and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5 ;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

k , p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

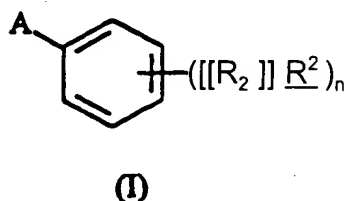
m represents one, two or three; and

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

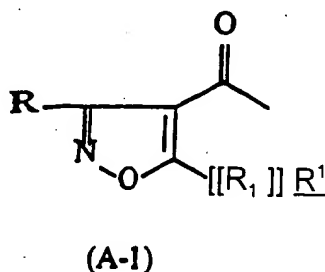
Claim 29 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition

comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



wherein:

R represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 , one or more halogen atoms or a group $-CO_2R^3$; or a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R^1 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, or a cycloalkyl

group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-OR^5$; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, $-COR^5$, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, $-OR^5$, $-OSO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-CONR^3R^4$, $-CSNR^3R^4$, $-(CR^9R^{10})_t-S(O)_qR^7$ and $-SF_5$; or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=NO-R^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-SO-$ or $-SO_2-$;

n represents an integer from one to five; when n is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, each represent R^5 or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$, and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} each represent a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} each represent hydrogen or R^5 ;

R^{13} represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

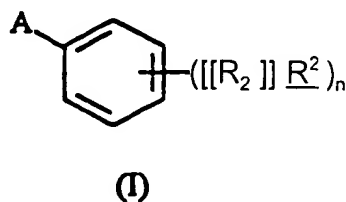
k, p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two;

m represents one, two or three; and

t represents an integer from one to four; when t is greater than one, the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

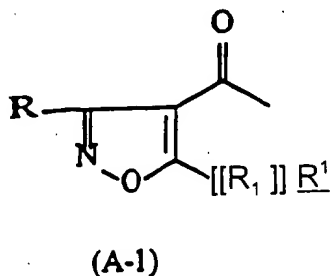
or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



wherein:

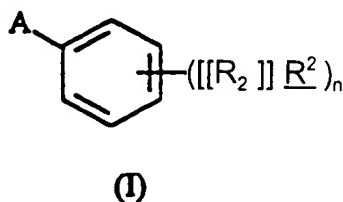
R is hydrogen or $-\text{CO}_2\text{Et}$;

R^1 is cyclopropyl;

n is 3; and

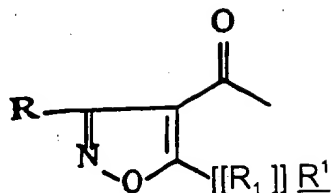
two of the R^2 groups are on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring and, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, combine to form a 5 or 6 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring which is fused to the 2,3 or 3,4 positions of the benzoyl ring; wherein the heterocyclic ring contains two hetero atoms selected from sulphur and oxygen which are directly bonded to the 2 and 3, or 3 and 4 positions of the benzoyl ring; and in which the third R^2 group is located at the 4-substituent of the benzoyl ring and is halogen or $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{pMe}$ when the heterocyclic ring is fused to the 2,3 positions of the benzoyl ring, or the third R^2 group is located at the 2-substituent of the benzoyl ring and is methyl, $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{pMe}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}(\text{O})\text{qMe}$ when the heterocyclic ring is fused to the 3,4 positions of the benzoyl ring; wherein p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two; and optionally the heterocyclic ring may be substituted by one or more halogen atoms.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the general formula (I)



wherein:

A represents a group (A-1):



(A-1)

wherein:

R is hydrogen or -CO₂Et;

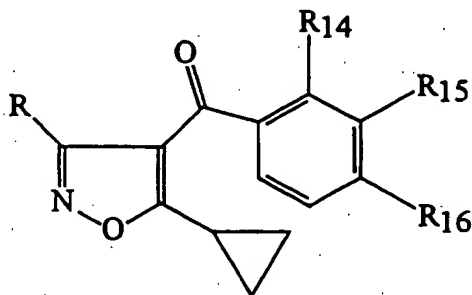
R¹ is cyclopropyl;

R² is a halogen atom or a group selected from -CF₃, Me Et, -S(O)_pMe, -CH₂S(O)_qMe and optionally halogenated methoxy or ethoxy;

p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two; and

n is two or three.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23;~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein:

R is hydrogen or -CO₂Et;

R₁₄ is selected from -S(O)_pMe, Me, Et, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and -CH₂S(O)_qMe;

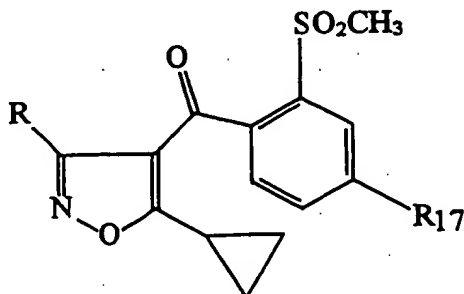
R₁₅ is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and -S(O)_pMe;

p and q independently represent the values zero, one or two; and

R₁₆ is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy and CF₃;

and wherein at least one of R₁₅ and R₁₆ is other than hydrogen.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium. ~~A method according to claim 23,~~ wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the formula (Ib):



(Ib)

wherein:

R17 is chlorine, bromine or trifluoromethyl; and

R is hydrogen or -CO₂Et.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 27, wherein the growing medium is soil.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 27, wherein the locus is a crop-growing locus.

Claim 36 (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 27, wherein the surface layer of the medium is from the surface to a depth of 10 cm.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): ~~The method of claim 27, A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the~~ wherein the locus is treated with sequential applications of ~~[[an]] the encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide~~ to provide a sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium, wherein the amount of isoxazole herbicide in the composition for each of said applications is less than that which would be effective in a single application.

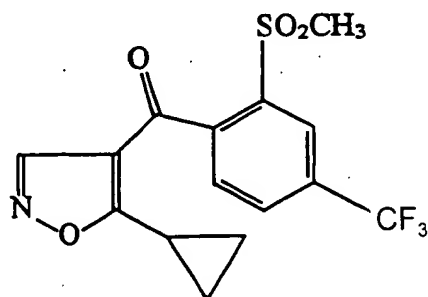
Claim 38 (Previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein said sequential applications consists of two, three, four or five applications, and the amount of isoxazole herbicide in the composition for each of said applications is, respectively, about one-half, one-third, one fourth or one-fifth of the normal effective amount of isoxazole herbicide for a single application.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 27, wherein the locus is treated with the encapsulated composition by applying the composition to the locus, further wherein the composition is applied to the locus in association with a carrier.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the composition is dispersed in said carrier before the composition is applied to the locus.

Claims 41-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (New) A method for controlling the growth of weeds at a locus in a solid growing medium which comprises treating the locus with an encapsulated composition comprising an isoxazole herbicide to provide progressive or sequential delivery or release of isoxazole herbicide into the surface layer of the medium, wherein the isoxazole herbicide is a compound of the formula



Claim 44 (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the isoxazole compound has the formula

